The Iron Lord

S. R. Crockett

AUTHOR OF "THE STICKIT MINISTER," "THE RAIDERS," "THE WHITE PLUME," &c.

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CHAPTER IV.

A Man at War with His Maker. One of Vida Bryan's best friends, after Dick Finnan and the red-nosed Irishman ball upon golden streets. on the Skerry Light, was old Abraham Fyfe, the senior gardener at Gorm House. dener, or, indeed, a "head" anything.

"I am head gardener," he would say; "head cook, head bottlewasher, head everything! There is no head at Gorm House or in the Kirktown pits but Jacob her at the moment.

Romer. So mind you that!" privileges, and the only man about the place who at times dared to speak his mind to his master. Jacob Romer knew sincerity when he saw it. For instance, he was as well aware that James Kahn

There are them that canna settle to only woman, and them that canna settle to only woman, and them that canna settle to only woman. Jacob Romer knew younger men are taking my place—pass—he was of the first sort. As only the first sort. As only the first sort. As only the first sort. There are them that canna settle to only woman, and them that canna settle to only woman. Jacob Romer knew younger men are taking my place—pass—he was of the first sort. As only the first sort. There is no ous grounds of objection which may be urged against it by the ingenious; but facts within the observation of all are material and controlling.

There are them that canna settle to only woman, and them that canna settle to only woman, and the only man about the line material. Of such there are twa in the altered conduction of the variable out of the place of the conduction of the variable out of the place of the conduction of the variable out of the place of the conduction of the variable. There is no out grounds of objection which may be urged against it by the ingenious; but facts within the observation of all are material and controlling.

A sound of trampling ensued, then the closing of the inner door; and fine been miserable, objected Dr. Tom. "I have liked my work to de done, as the gate is always open—a most suitable arrangement, sir, facts within the observation of all are material and controlling." leal man and no hireling. But then his was just how to get rid o' her!" business was such that James Kahn was more useful to him. Any man may be The old man turned in astonishment, his "What has be compared to him." a good man, but it takes a clever man fingers.

to be a serviceable rascal. Besides, a "Eh, lassle—but what's the maitter—

respect from the ironmaster which were "I was only sorry for the poor wife that withheld from his cleverer tool. The lat- died without ever being loved." may know more than myself-about sha-

Vida liked well enough to see Abraham "slip doon," as he said, "frae the "Deed, then, my bonnie, it is because

said old Abraham, who had his privileges concern me not, they are between him with Vida, as he pointed after the smok-

so carefully hidden.

"Save us, lass!" cried the old man, snatching the branch from her, "dinna gang spoilin' the best bloom o' the 'Pride o' Burgundy' that my ain hands planted of Burgundy' that for ye-ay-they did so-grafted on Ayr. and Jacob Romer with my hands for the year. shire White it was, an' dug aboot an' near as lang, an' I understand eneuch o' watered-but what was it ye were sayin'? Ow, say, aboot the Maister. Was he ever in love? Love-love-hear to ye! Is there naething else i' the heads o' you young

folk-but havers about love?"

but Jacob Romer fand the iron as weelthat has been the makin' o' this country- twenty-four hours. side in ae way o' looking at it, an' maybe the perdition o' it in anither!

"But the young maister on, he day. doctor. He conducted him in person to ting sun. married. A man never works with both wife and family to support. So they say.

lady, sir!' says I.

there, as the sayin' is, an' that he needna there, as the sayin is, an that he heads be feared o' Abraham Fyfe opening his placently, and reflected that he was the ing to himself. an' the beadle-craitur to gie the puir gallery. Naebody kenned that I over the last little job I was fool enough words. was there to see. But somehow the mar- to take in hand for you!" fear that the old bachelor thief wad Gorm was in his grave, it was not a whit must be a precarious one if it cannot piles of debris, which rose a hundred feet better. The wife gaed wrang i' the mind, or dee'd or something. An' sae it may by the glebe yett wi' his horses ave at

"Maybe-maybe!" he sald, "aiblins the sins o' some gang before them into judgment, as it is written. And I, sinner ay, an' tens o' thoosands! I judge he's gye an' lonely whiles-juist him an' his saved enough money?"

Vida would have liked to ask other questions, but a fear of appearing over- have some money-not what you would inquisitive withheld her. However, the old man needed only to be let go, once God. I shall never need to come on you he thought. "They have fresh air about to be resurrected by any one, excepting he drew from the scabbard."

There was a bairn, too-lad-bairn or even pay for myself in the county asylassie-bairn, I never richtly heard. But lumthe bit thing lived not long, I wot, though, it wasna killed wi' kindness. How could It's mither a puir peeferin invalid puir wee snipe was far better aff. I'se warrant, at hame wi' its Ither Faither

and aboot a kindlier Hearthstane!"

as a good Cameronian, he had officially not. What should I do with myself? I plant down there-

harpin' an' singin' put Abraham Fyfe on his guard, save for the fact that he had his deaf ear toward the round."

"Cruel-weel, no' exactly," said the an-Still, Abraham was the man with the cient gardener of Gorm House; "ye see, thing worth living for! Gives you no

shears still clip-clipping emptily in his

man of conscience and scruples is just so are ye allbins no weel?"

much more hampered. "I am better already," said Vida, down a little before dinner— But still Abraham had a tolerance and a snatching desperately at her self-control.

ter was "Kahn" always to his master.

Rut the gardener was always "Abraham" me, ye wadna greet for her!" said Abra-But the gardener was a ways "Abraham," ham Fyfe. "Sure am I that baith the mither an' baira will be leapin' an' skipwould sometimes end a discussion as to pin' like two bonnie young lambs on the it was their first night together—at all horticultural subjects with the admission mountains o' Beaulah-juist to be rid o' that "After all, Abraham, perhaps you Jacob Romer an' Jacob Romer's temper!" "And why, then, do you serve such a man?" asked Vida, looking at the sober

big hoose to help her tidy up a wee!"

It made her feel less lonesome down by the little gate cottage at the glebe end.

The down is been, in yourne, its because it is be This was not the main lodge of Gorm House, but one of which the gate always stood open, which led, by a narrower, longer, and more sequestered avenue, under a gloomy, almost secret archway him that made him the hard made and series are series and series under a gloomy, almost secret archway him that made him the hard man he is of green, with a couch of pine-needles, this day. But, at ony rate, God didna restful and elastic underfoot, to the stable entrance. But still Jacob Romer passed Jacob Romer. He has been a hard, but lowed his profession with regularity and out much more frequently by the open no an ill maister to me. The puir lads success, his practice enlarging almost glebe end gate than by that guarded by the huge tortured saurians which reprethe huge tortured saurians which repre-can tell a different tale. But for me, sented the heraldic supporters of his when my maister is to be blamed in that "See to that noo! He never so muckle to withstand him to the face. But as to consangulate as looks the road ye are on, my bonnie!" the rest of his dealings and doings, which wrant is

"No," cried Vida, suddenly; "they are

sinner wha errs through the glamour o' a Cameronian, accustomed to the stress of customed to draw his conclusions and

this stranger that which her mother had them is Vengeance. 'Be still and know so carefully hidden. that I am God.' That is the message. "Did he never love any woman?" said Ay, even if ye were the puir young wife themen might have the pleasure of

CHAPTER V.

Brother Tom had come from Thorsby continually, the two brothers, but, after sight of the slight, vivid figure of a girl, lands. Skill and luck combined to them entrance to a large, square room, no hae heard tell that the maister was all, they had no other intimacies, and with eyes like the dusk of pansies, who make his purchases fortunate. He which the candle but dimly lighted. The marriet-when he was a younger man. It each respected the other's tenacity, the watched them from the porch of a way- knew the territory as any one knows floor had a thick carpeting of dust, was doon Northumberland way, where there are bonny bits o' lasses—white an' delicate as bakers' biscuits wi' pink vices were Tom's admirations, and Jadelicate as bakers' biscults wi' pink vices were Tom's admirations, and Jasugar on the tap. Ay, I served wi' the audit man then—the first Maister Jacob and man then—the first Maister Jacob work and Gorm, ye will have heard tell o' him. He many weaknesses. They were, in fact, in Vida with one sharp glance, and strode oil would not be gushing and revenue ments in the disturbed air. The room had was a great man in Thorsby, what they well agreed. But for all that they were on impatiently. was a great man in Indoor, what they can' chairman of the docks an' owner o' hot made to dwell long together. Like heaps o' ships. Him it was that sunk the first o' thae Incubus pits and set up the two hundred miles was requisite to make heaps o' ships. Him it was that sunk the first o' thae Incubus pits and set up the two hundred miles was requisite to make people, to whom Kahn gave the cottage

But for the first evening at Gorm But the young maister—oh, he took a could not see enough of his brother, the range notion into his head as day. doctor. He conducted him in person to going to try it."

ood luck to you and your bonnie movement of his foot sent Gregson from what he said." scuttling after another. He even sat on "Hum," thought his brother, "if it were it to—!" and he cocked his thumb over his shoulder in the direction of his uncle. der of his locks to the best advantage mind, it's certainly none of my business.

Weel, I saw the lass married, for I gaed to the kirk. It was in an Episcopian kirk in England—naebody but themselves two goonly—you are a younger man than L."

"Tom," he said, "you are wearing but off when I want him. He does not like negotiate with my coming too often—no, younger is his ment for leases. "I have more to worry me," retorted motor at the office door."

"What is it that Kahn does not like?" young thing awa'! Me? I was safe hid his brother, testily. "I have not yet got

was there to see. But somehow the mar-riage didna answer. Never did Jacob Ro-"You mean about Caroline," said Ja-sharply. "Now, Tom, I will leave you to cob Romer, serenely; "that was five observe the sunset while I am doing my tion. disinherit him. An' after that Jacob years ago. Your position in Thorsby work."

stand a little jolt like that!"

ment, as it is written. And I, sinner though I be, I would rather hae the conscience o' puir Abraham, the gardener, to tak' wi' me to bed, than that of Jacob of Inchgormach the whirling wheels whith the way in the whirling wheels white the way in the white whith the way in th

"Money," snorted Thomas Romer. mounted on the hazardous, stumbling nag of his octogenarian reminiscence.

to keep me from the poor house. I could them, at least when they are not in the those who had money to throw away.

He associated himself with United

The night. You can afford to let it alone sponse.

till then."

his doctrine as to Elect and non-Elect am a man without hobbles-I have never nfants, as a private person Abraham gone in for their confounded scientific thought of heaven as a place where lassies and laddles played at marbles and swearing the brutes like it. I have had me. The "For," said he, in explanation of this, no time for golf, or to fish, or to shoot. "it's natural that the young lightsome I have only attended to my patients and Mr. Romer refused to have a head gar- things wad whiles be tirin' o' the eternal to my Thorsby appointments. These have taken all my time. Even when I "He was cruel to his wife, then?" Vida went off ten days in the summer time, I went on, with an accent which might have was precious glad to get back again to

Jacob Romer nodded appreciatively. "Rare thing, work," he grunted; "only

he was as well aware that James Kahn was o' the first sort. After a month, his ing me by. Yes, it is true, I am getting was busily feathering his nest as that wife was nae mair to him than a coat old. I do not take easily to newer and Abraham Fyfe was serving him like a that didna fit. A' that he thocht about cheaper methods. There is that young Salveson, now-ah, it angers me only to

"What has he done?" asked Jacob "It concerns you also, in some degree said his brother. "We will go into that to night. But just now-I think I'll lie

"Nonsense!" gried Jacob; "lie down, indeed! Stretch your legs, you mean, as far as No. 2 pit, and see Kahn. I have to speak to him anyway."

So the brothers went out, still amicable HE LEASES WYOMING TRACTS and united, as, indeed, was the fact, for events respecting each other for the simi-larity of their characters, and the knowledge that, though each might "do" world at large, peither could impose on the other. Nor, indeed, would they have dreamed of making the attempt.

Blood and the absence of other kindred had made Jacob and Thomas Romer very head, the half-bared tooth, the ready of the supply of coal, caused by shortage direction, seem to be making a concerted snap; while through his youth he had of the car and engine supply, brought Uncle Gorm of Inchgormach, whose held

The brothers, two alert, active men for their ages, both of a height, and carryconsanguinity, took the road to the Glebe

Wrapt in himself, bearing the destinymark on his brow, his mind continually ing wheels of his master's carriage, "na, na! His heart is ower hard, even as the nether milistane. There is aye something of his master's carriage, "na, he had his work under of his most of his master's carriage, "na, he had his most of his mo for the grace o' God to work on, in a Her excitement did not surprise the old his hand. Thomas, on the contrary, ac-

'Be still and know tomers and their buyers that these gen-

"You have a beautiful place here, baith julst to leave the twa o' them to Jacob," said the doctor, pausing to ad-

one to spy on your comings and goings." to see Jacob Romer. They quarreled brother. And as he spoke he caught

one bearable to the other. That is, after because he had been long a government

House it seemed as if Jacob Romer lifting his finger and pointing to the tall

"Tom's room." He saw that there was "I do not know. How should I know?" water in the ewer. He inspected the long-unused piece of soap, threw it out old Finnan had a daughter, but I don't Hearing that

But mind, nothing must be said about the bed while Tom arranged the remain- not for what Jacob wrote me-well, never In shoulder in the direction of his under.

I nodded, to let him ken that I was a over his bald head. As he watched, Jathere, as the sayin' is, an' that he needna cob rubbed up his own thick bristle combine his thought, while habitually careless and wholly under the direction of his under t conscious, his brother strode on mutterbe feared o' Abraham Fyfe opening his mouth when he had need to keep it shut! older man by a good half-a-dozen years.

Weel I saw the lass married for I gaed of the lass married for I ga

of the earth. Those arriving had lamps

"Ay, Maister Morris, I will attend to that once again it was proven that in rarrant, at hame wi' its Ither Faither about a kindlier Hearthstane!"

"Very well, Jacob!" said Dr. Romer, abraham was silent a while with the attraction of the man. For though to you as you know But rather that once again it was proven that in that once again it was proven that in the job! I will that!" he heard a man very truth Midas had lent his touch to say, as the newcomer swung himself into this Delaware. natural instinct of the man. For though, to you, as you know. But retire I can-others. And another, "We shall have! The Largest Morning Circulation.

some air to breathe the nicht, along the working faces, since Vic Morris is going

At that moment the doctor's brother came out, talking rapidly to his second-

"Nothing of the sort, Kahn," he was saying. "That won't do for me. I conduct my business openly. Nothing useless, of couse, but a second exit we must have. Besides, the government demands it—"
"And never looks for it—they will pass any ten-foot hole in the ground!" laughed Yahn; "but I will see to the matter im nediately, sir. I admit that No. 2 plt is far from safe, and we have some costly

"Besides some few men?" said Mr. Jacob Romer, sternly. "One hundred and four, sir," said Kahn, pumping engine at the bottom wants new connections, at any rate! We

TO BE CONTINUED TO-MORROW.

Wealthy Indian Would Substitute Oil for Coal.

Will Endeavor to Avert Recurrence to Supply Settlers' Needs.

Settlers on Western plains in some localities froze to death last winter, because they could not buy coal. Shortage serious conditions to those Westerners. It may be that a Delaware Indian, a out, it will be merely another repetition

sinner wha errs through the glamour o' a weel-faured face. There was King Dawid himself, ye ken. But Jacob Romer, never—I hae kenned him—ay, for forty year, and save for self and siller that heart in his breast has never donted the faster."

Yida turned pale as she stood listening. Perhaps she was destined to hear from Indian error and accustomed to the strange that the team to the perhect his diagnoses by observations of all sorts, had his event everywhere. Cameronian, accustomed to the strange that the team to the perhect his diagnoses by observations of all sorts, had his eyes everywhere. Cameronian, accustomed to the strange that the team to the perhect his diagnoses by observations of all sorts, had his eyes everywhere. Cameronian, accustomed to the strange that the team to the perhect his diagnoses by observations of all sorts, had his eyes everywhere. Cameronian, accustomed to the strange that the team to the perhect his diagnoses by observations of all sorts, had his eyes everywhere. Cameronian, accustomed to the strange that the team to the strange that had been a ferce time of a too convivial affect his diagnoses by observations of all sorts, had his eyes everywhere. Shoulder, now shaken with her sobts. With full consent of the Interior Despite that had been a ferce this diagnoses by observations of all sorts, had his eyes everywhere. Shoulder, now shaken his before the distorier in the form of a concession affectionate understanding on the girll that he dean to the form of a concession affectionate understanding on the girll that he dean to the form of a concession affectionate understanding on the girll that he dean to the form of a concession affectionate understanding on the girll that he dean that had been a ferce this diagnoses by observations of all sorts. The diagnose is described in the first hi

The story of the rapid rise of this Inseven figures, and potentially in eight.

Has the Midas Touch, Hving in the territory, took his allot- to the ground. The two then joined the ment in severalty from the govern- others at the door, which one of them ment. Members of his family took had already opened with some difficulty, "Reautiful?" the owner threw the word theirs, and these tracts, only a few caused by rust of lock and hinge. All "Is it? I hundred acres, were located in the oil entered. Inside it was dark, but the at him like a bone at a dog. "Is it? I hundred acres, were located in the oil entered. Inside it was unix, but the had not noticed. I know it is the nearest belt. Adams immediately leased the man who had unlocked the door produced way to pit No. 2. Also the quietest. No lands, took the money received from a candle and matches and made a light. that source, and hurriedly placed it He then unlocked a door on their right back in the ground by buying other as they stood in the passage. This gave

flowing Into the Adams' coffers. Beginning three years ago with the neither could anything be seen except the modest allotments of severalty tribal rough inner surfaces of boards a few lands, this Delaware Indian owns in fee inches from the giass. There was no simple 7,500 acres of oil lands, worth fireplace, no furniture; there was nothnot an acre less than \$100 and much ing. Besides the cobwebs and the dust, of it \$1,000. He holds leases on 7,500 the four men were the only objects there acres more, from which he receives which were not a part of the structure. per quarter section in some instances \$10,000 annually. Already, his revenue low light of the candle. The one who

of the window, and with a threatening believe I ever set eyes on the girl before! stagnating the industries of the West, broad shouldered. Looking at his ngur and knowing that there were oil decone would have said that he had giant's strength; at his face, that he stagnating the industries of the West, broad shouldered. Looking at his figure posits from which he was reaping rich giant's strength; at his face, that he posits from which he was reaping rich harvests and the people obtaining re-shaven, his hair rather closely cropped lief from excessive fuel prices, he and gray. His low forehead was seame boarded the train one day, quietly went with wrinkles above the eyes, and over on the oil lands of the Shoshone tribe the nose these became vertical. negotiate with the Interior Depart- been the point of contact. Deeply sunker

Advantageous terms were arranged a pair of eyes of uncertain color, but, to protect the Shoshone Indians and obviously enough, too small. There was queried the doctor, only half catching the yet permit the Delaware Indians to something forbidding in their expression, operate with a profit, and arrange-ments were perfected to open the Wy-mouth and wide jaw. The nose was well oming crude oil fields to fuel produc-

Adams had seen what crude oil as a into the air, rusty wagons, full of iron fuel had done for the people of Indian Dr. Thomas Romer stopped brushing ore, waiting to be taken to the smelting Territory and Oklahoma. Experts of the the glebe yett wi' his horses aye at the brushes still poised on either side of changing shifts. The miners passed of crude oil will supply as much heat and hell following after!"

"Yes, perhaps he has need!" said Vida, in a low voice.

The old gardener, who had been buslly manipulating his pruning knife all the manipulating his up, silent and exhausted from their labor, motive power as \$15 worth of coal at the reason why. But I-I am the servant off through the warm dust of the summer far Westerners and the prospect that he right. Are you ready, Mr. Rosser?"

of the town council—that is to say, of evening, like so many tired animals, their will become an important factor in the of the town council-that is to say, of evening, like so many tired animals, their will become an important factor in the the mob, fickle and foolish as so many feet falling strangely on the kindly round industrial life of those communities, as

The heavy man bowed and scowled. above his pit-heads; "surely you have groups of two or three, while those re- light, a gold mine which had been filled turning from underground kept wholly with water since 1873, although in the side the door, in the passage. The man early days the Shoshone Indians took with the candle now nodded, and the "that is all you think of, Jacob! Yes, I muscular development of the men. have some money—not what you would "They are better made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the made fellows than our ming people, and those who remembered the ming people in th But the doctor noticed the fine average much treasure from it. The Miners' De- fourth man-he who had urged Groslight had been forgotten by most Wyo- smith to leave the wagon-produced

"Then a tall young man approached, walking with a certain air of authority, for whom the men made way with an apsternly, "I know what you mean. We pearance of respectful good will, though shall have to talk over that subject tothey uncovered such a wealth of gold

THE MIDDLE TOE THE RIGHT FOOT

AMBROSE BIERCE

FROM "IN THE MIDST OF LIFE-TALES OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS."

CHAPTER I.

It is well known that the old Manton "One hundred and four, sir," said Kahn. house is haunted. In all the rural district thest from the door, whither Grossmith promptly; "but you can leave all that to near about, and even in the town of Marshall, a mile away, not one person of a grasp of the hand which had nothing unbiased mind entertains a doubt of it: unbiased mind entertains a doubt of it. the door Mr. Rosser stationed himself, residence cannot be ascertained, the sher-The master of the Incubus pits said incredulity is confined to those opinion- and, after a whispered consultation, his iff was the legal custodian of the Manton and, after a winspered consultation, his brother did not ated people who will be called "cranks" as soon as the useful word shall have the door. At that moment the candle longing. His present visit was in meral the door. "Oh, yes, sir," said James Kahn, "a penetrated the intellectual demesne of the was suddenly extinguished, leaving all most respectable girl, indeed—excellent daughter, and all that, I believe. We have just promoted old Finnan inspector of ways in No. 2—a very steady old fellow, lighthouse keeper for many years, always to be depended upon. No, sir; I do not think you could find a petter tender of and ruled out on any of the variable. We have had occurrently extinguished, leaving all marshall Advance. The evidence that the penetrated the intellectual demesse of the Marshall Advance. The evidence that the been done by a draught from the opened door; whatever the cause, the effect was startling.

"Gentlemen," said a voice which sounded strangely unfamiliar in the altered condenses the penetrated the intellectual demesse of the Marshall Advance. The evidence that the been done by a draught from the opened door; whatever the cause, the effect was startling.

"Gentlemen," said a voice which sounded startling all in profound darkness. This may have been done by a draught from the opened door; whatever the cause, the effect was startling.

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In the first place, the Manton house shook the entire building. has been unoccupied by mortals for more A few minutes after a belated farmer's than ten years, and with its outbuildings boy met a light wagon which was being | Carelessly opening the front door, which s slowly falling into decay-a circumstance which in itself the judicious will hardly venture to ignore. It stands a with its hands upon the bowed shoulders of the loneliest reach of the others, who appeared to struggle Marshall and Harriston road, in an opening which was once a farm and is still This figure, unlike the others, was clad the same number of coats, waistcoats, disfigured with strips of rotting fence and in white, and had undoubtedly boarded and scarfs, all in a remarkably good half covered with brambles overrunning d with the plow. The house itself is in tolerably good condition, though badly weather-stained and in dire need of attention from the glazier, the smaller male population of the region having attested the manner of its kind its disapproval dwellings without dwellers. The house two stories in height nearly square, its of Last Year's Terrible Conditions of dwellings without dwellers. The house Due to Railroads' Inability to Carry is two stories in height, nearly square, its adventure. Sufficient Coal Into the Northwest front pierced by a single doorway flanked without a claimant. on each side by a window boarded up to the very top. Corresponding windows above, not protected, serve to admit light and rain to the rooms of the upper floor Grass and weeds grow pretty rankly all about, and a few shade trees, somewhai the worse for wind and leaning all in one

columns of the Advance, "the proposition

the persons of the things about mile the mile things about mile things about mile the mile things about mile things about mile the mile the mile things about mile the mile the mile things about mile the mil

you were in it."

"Perhaps I am." the other said, looking dian to comparative opulence and a poslaughtering them. dian to comparative opulence and a po-He noted that the road was seldom sition among the industrial captains a tone which had something of contempt "Did he never love any woman? said the sold man bersel"."

Vida, tremulously, slowly crumbling the leaves of a blond tea-rose between her stand—you do not know—" cried Vida, fingers.

He noted that the road was seldom traveled save by some single light-running vehicle, his brother's mail-phaeton, as he judged.

He noted that the road was seldom traveled save by some single light-running vehicle, his brother's mail-phaeton, as he judged.

Then outle unexpectedly they came fortuffe, which now may be estimated in the choice of place was, with your own as he judged.

Then outle unexpectedly they came fortuffe, which now may be estimated in the choice of place was, with your own assent, left to the other side. Of course if you are afraid of spooks-"

> "I am afraid of nothing," the man in-In 1904, Adams, the Delaware, then terrupted with another oath, and sprang two windows in adjoining sides, but from approaches \$100,000 a year, and is readly "spectacular"-he might have been Hearing that the coal shortage was age, heavily built, deep chested, and

Wyoming, satisfied himself as to heavy black brows followed the same enough, as noses go; one does not exin the man's face seemed accentuated

together bloodless. The appearance of the other men was sufficiently commonplace; they were such he met. All were younger than the man described, between whom and the eldest of the others, who stood apart, there was apparently no kindly feeling. They

"Gentlemen," said the man holding th candle and keys, "I believe everything is bowed and smiled. "And you, Mr. Grossmith?"

"You will please remove your outer Their hats coats waistcoats and neckwear were soon removed and thrown out-

"They are exactly alike," he said, pre--for by this time the dullest observer

it critically near the candle and tested the strength of blade and handle across the strength of blade and handle across his lifted knee. Their persons were then searched in turn, each by the second of

"you will place yourself in that corner." He indicated the angle of the room far-

outer one closed with a concussion which the moment could think of nothing more

shall. He declared that behind the two figures on the front seat stood a third, vainly to free themselves from its grasp. the wagon as it passed the haunted state of preservation, albeit somewhat de-house. As the lad could boast of con-filed by the dust in which they lay. Mr. siderable former experience with the supernatural thereabout, his word had the weight justly due to the testimony of an expert. The story eventually appeared in the Advance, with some slight literary pushed open a door on the right, and expellishments and a concluding intime. nbellishments and a concluding intima- the three entered. The room was ap-

CHAPTER II,

n the dark" were simple enough. One evening three young men of the town of wall, his shoulders elevated to the level Marshall were sitting in a quiet corner of the porch of the village hotel, smoking effort to run away. In short, as the and discussing such matters as three ducated young men of a Southern viland discussing such matters as three lage would naturally find interesting. full-blood, will relieve this suffering, that the Manton house is badly haunted Their names were King, Sancher, and He was stone dead. Yet, with the exwhich railroad men fear will be repeated is the only logical conclusion from the Rosser. At a little distance, within easy in the coming winter. Furthermore, this premises." The fact that in this dwelling bearing, but taking no part in the conDelaware Indian will take his fuel supply Mr. Manton thought it expedient one ger to the others. The was a stranto relieve this suffering from the lands night some ten years ago to rise and cut ger to the others. They merely knew Wyoming, which are owned by the the throats of his wife and two small that on his arrival by the stage coach door and along the wall through which Shoshone tribe of Indians. It is an in-children, removing at once to another that afternoon he had written in the it opened. Along one of the stance of the Indian coming to the sucpart of the country, has no doubt done
cor of the whites. Richard C. Adams, the
its share in directing public attention to Delaware, asserts that if his plans work the fitness of the place for supernatural speak to any one except the hotel clerk. He approaching the body the three men followers, asserts that if his plans work the fitness of the place for supernatural speak to any one except the hotel clerk. He approaching the body the three men followers, asserts that if his plans work the fitness of the place for supernatural speak to any one except the hotel clerk. He approaching the body the three men followers, asserts that if his plans work the fitness of the place for supernatural speak to any one except the hotel clerk. He eemed, indeed, singularly fond of his own lowed that trail. The sheriff grasped one company-or, as the personnel of the Ad- of the out-thrown arms; it was as rigid vance expressed it, "grossly addicted to as iron, and the application of a gentle With full consent of the Interior Department, in the form of a concession to work those Shoshone oil lands, Adams evil associations." But then it should be force rocked the entire body with disposition fairly to judge one differently gifted, and had, moreover, experienced "You are right," said King, with an

woman," said King, "whether natural or eor acquired. I have a theory that any him when he challenged Rosser. I told

Mrs. King an arduous enterprise." "Of course, you may put it that way," was the reply; "but, seriously, I once Rut nothing was the reply; "but, seriously, I once that he was tha learning, quite accidentally, that she had penetrate the mystery of the man's death. suffered amputation of a toe. My conduct That he had not once moved from the was brutal, if you like, but if I had mar- corner where he had been stationed, that ried that girl, I should have been miserable and should have made her so." "Whereas," said Sancher, with a light

liberal views she escaped with a parted turbed intelligence could not rightly com-"Ah, you know to whom I refer! Yes, she married Manton, but I don't know about his liberality; I'm not sure but he the middle toe of the right foot."

That chap was obviously listening intently to the conversation. "Damn his impudence!" muttered King; "That's an easy one," Rosser replied, rising, "Sir," he continued, addressing the stranger, "I think it would be better

if you would remove your chair to the other end of the veranda. The presence of gentlemen is evidently an unfamiliar The man sprang to his feet and strode forward with clenched hands, his face white with rage. All were now standing. 'You are hasty and unjust," he said to

ing to deserve such language." By the custom of the country and the

the quarrei.
"I demand the satisfaction due to a gentleman," said the stranger, who had become more calm. "I have not an acir." bowing to Sancher, "will be kind ough to represent me in this matter." at all to his liking. King, who, during the colloquy, had hardly removed his eyes from the stranger's face, and had not spoken a word, consented with a nod to act for Rosser, and the upshot of it to act for Rosser, and the upshot of it to act for Rosser, and the upshot of it to act for Rosser, and the upshot of it to act for Rosser, and the upshot of it to act for Rosser, and the upshot of it to act for Rosser, and the upshot of it to act for Rosser, and the upshot of its seek has little or none to day; but knives in a dark room was once a com- ensnare. It is a noble prerogative-one, veneering of "chivalry" covered the es- And yet, as we have observed, it should sential brutality of the code under which be exercised with caution. Let nothing

CHAPTER III. In the blaze of a midsummer noonday,

ly. The sunshine caressed it warmly and affectionately, with evident unconsciousness of its bad reputation. The grass, good enough for the time, but the recent greening all the expanse in its front, er and sought reneders it valueless. seemed to grow, not rankly, but with a Nevertheless, despite the fact that, in natural and joyous exuberance, and the considering the points to be heeded and weeds blossomed quite like plants. Full the precautions to be observed by womof charming lights and shadows, and ankind, we find ourselves in a fallow populous with pleasant-voiced birds, the field, certain general principles from the pocket of his overcoat two long. neglected shade trees no longer struggled to run away, but bent reverently be- example, to capture a husband while he neath their burdens of sun and song. senting one to each of the two principals Even in the glassless upper windows was may then be trained after the manner an expression of peace and contentment, best calculated to serve the convenience would have understood the nature of this due to the light within. Over the stony of her for whom thenceforth he must and meeting. It was to be a duel to the fields the visible heat danced with a should toil. lively tremor incompatible with the gravity which is an attribute of the super-

and two other men who had come out before attained by any morning news-"If it is agreeable to you, Mr. Gros- from Marshall to look at it. One of these paper at the Capital. Its books are open

smith," said the man holding the light, men was Mr. King, the sheriff's deputy; the other, whose name was Brewer, was a brother of the late Mrs. Manton. Under a beneficent law of the State relating to longing. His present visit was in mere perfunctory compliance with some order locked the house for another and very different purpose. His presence now was not of his own choosing; he had been ordered to accompany his superior, and at prudent than simulated alacrity in obedi-

to his surprise was not locked, the sheriff was amazed to see, lying on the floor of the passage into which it opened, a confused heap of men's apparel. Examination showed it to consist of two hats and But the privilege remained the wall. It was a human figure-that of a man crouching close in the corner Something in the attitude made the intruders halt when they had barely passed The events which led up to this "duel clearly defined itself. The man was upon one knee, his back in the angle of the of his ears, his hands before his face, palms outward, the fingers spread and upward on the retracted neck had an exhalf open, the eyes incredibly expanded. ception of a knife, which had evidently fallen from his own hand, not another

In the thick dust that covered the floor

"I hate any kind of deformity in a his hair long, but this is he." "I infer, then," said Rosser, gravely, forgetting his outer clothing in the ex-"that a lady lacking the advantage of a citement, and driving away with us in nose would find the struggle to become his shirt sleeves—all through the discred-

were dealing with, murderer and coward his posture was that of neither attack nor defense, that he had dropped his weapon, that he had obviously perished of sheer horror of something that he saw-these laugh, "by marrying a gentleman of more were circumstances which Mr. King's dis-

Groping in intellectual darkness for clew to his maze of doubt, his gaze, directed mechanically downward, as is the cut her throat because he discovered that ters, fell upon something which, there, she lacked that excellent thing in weman, in the light of day, and in the presence in the light of day, and the with an he middle toe of the right foot."

"Look at that chap!" said Rosser, in a invincible terror. In the dust of years low voice, his eyes fixed upon the that lay thick upon the floor-leading stranger. straight across the room to within a yard of Manton's crouching corpse-were but definite impressions of bare feet, the outer ones those of small children, the inner a woman's. From the point at which they ended they did not return; they pointed all one way. Brewer, who had observed them at the same me was leaning forward in an attitude of

rapt attention, horribly pale. both hands at the nearest print of the woman's right foot, where she had ap-parently stopped and stood. "The midparently stopped and stood. Gertrude was the late Mrs. Manton,

ADVICE AS TO HUSBANDS. Youth and Docility Virtues to Be

Desired Ere "Snaring" Them. Because it is the duty of every woman to marry some man, it by no means fol-Sancher accepted the trust-somewhat of making acute discrimination; on the eluctantly, it must be confessed, for the contrary, to fulfill her mission as comman's appearance and manner were not pletely as possible, she should exercise was that, the principals having retired, a tries she has little or none to-day; but meeting was arranged for the next even- in this happily civilized land she still ing. The nature of the arrangements has possesses, and will undoubtedly hold for been already disclosed. The duel with all time, the right first to choose and then moner feature of Southwestern life than in our judgment, that should be appre-it is likely to be again. How thin a ciated and cherished above all others. such encounters were possible, we shall be left to chance, as Plato would have had it when he decreed that pairing should be done by lot; while not overnice, be at least particular, in order that the one chosen may feel honored by the distinction conferred upon him, the old Manton house was hardly true to and so be the more readily induced to its traditions. It was of the earth, earth-

Much that was thought and written years ago on how to choose a wife was regarded as established. It is best, for is still young, docile, and plastic. Preferably, also, he should be in love. He

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